Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

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P 081755Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4861

CONFIDENTIAL NASSAU 1695

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR CPRS BF

SUBJ: EXTRADITION - ROBERT L. VESCO

REF: NASSAU 1694

RE PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL ON TREATY SUCCESSION DATED JULY 10. 1973.

BEGIN TEXT: YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO MY CABLE DATED JULY 10TH 1973.

I HAVE THE HONOUR, FURTHER TO INFORM YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS, CONSCIOUS OF THE DESIR-ABILITY OF MAINTAINING EXISTING LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND CONSCIOUS OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO HONOUR ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGES THAT MANY TREATY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN RESPECT OF THE BAHAMAS WERE SUCCEEDED TO BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS UPON INDEPENDENCE BY VIRTUE OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

SINCE, HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT IN VIRTUE OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW CERTAIN TREATIES MAY HAVE LAPSED AT THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS, IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL THAT EACH TREATY SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO LEGAL EXAMCONFIDENTIAL

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INATION. IT IS PROPOSED, AFTER THIS EXAMINATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED, TO INDICATE WHICH, IF ANY, OF THE TREATIES WHICH MAY

HAVE LAPSED BY CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW THE GOVERN-

MENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS WISHES TO TREAT AS HAVING LAPSED.

IT IS DESIRED THAT IT BE PRESUMED THAT EACH TREATY HAS BEEN LEGALLY SUCCEEDED TO BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS AND THAT ACTION BE BASED ON THIS PRESUMPTION UNTIL A DECISION IS REACHED THAT THE TREATY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS HAVING LAPSED. SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS BE OF THE OPINION THAT IT HAS LEGALLY SUCCEEDED TO A TREATY, AND WISHES TO TERMINATE THE OPERATION OF THE TREATY, IT WILL IN IN DUE COURSE GIVE NOTICE OF TERMINATION IN THE TERMS THEREOF.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS DESIRES THAT THIS LETTER BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SO THAT THEY WILL BE EFFECTED WITH NOTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE.

YOURS SINCERELY, PRIME MINISTER. END TEXT. SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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